

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131961
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 7

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS:

Q: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKEN ACTION AGAINST PEPSI-COLA AND COCA-COLA FOR VIOLATING THE EMBARGO, OR THE BOYCOTT AGAINST RHODESIA?

A: I KNOW OF NO ACTION.

GOING TO THE CONGO: THE QUESTION IS, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT REPORTS ABOUT RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE.

FIRST, WE HAVE AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH THE CONGO. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELMET IN BONN ON JUNE 6TH TO DISCUSS THE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH
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PAGE 02 STATE 131961

CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER THEOPHILE OBENGA.

PRESS REPORTS THAT RELATIONS HAVE BEEN RESUMED WERE PREMATURE SINCE THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE TWO HAS BEEN REFERRED BACK TO GOVERNMENTS ON BOTH SIDES FOR FORMAL APPROVAL.

Q: QUESTION ON THAT. APPROVAL, BY WHOM? BY THE CONGRESS,
OR BY THE EXECUTIVE, HERE?

A: NO, IT WOULD BE HERE BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. I THINK
THE RESUMPTION ONLY REQUIRES US TO MAKE AN EXECUTIVE
DECISION TO RESUME THEM.

Q: WHOSE IDEA WAS IT?

A: I UNDERSTAND WE BOTH DECIDED IT WOULD BE IN OUR MUTUAL
INTERESTS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION.

Q: WHY WERE THE RELATIONS BROKEN IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A: AS I RECALL, THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAD HAD TO DO WITH
THE TREATMENT, AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT, OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS
ON THE ONE HAND AND THE NATIONALIZATION -- THE TERMS OF
THE NATIONALIZATION OF MOBIL AND TEXACO PROPERTIES.

Q: I AM ASKING WHY THE BONN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN
ANNOUNCED IT YESTERDAY AND YOU COULDN'T CONFIRM IT.

A: WELL, THERE WERE TWO LEVELS ON THIS, TO BE PERFECTLY
CANDID:

THE FIRST THING IS, THE INITIAL STORY WASN'T CORRECT.
THE ACTUAL INFORMATION HAD COME OUT OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE CONGO.

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PAGE 03 STATE 131961

THE SECOND THING WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPLE -- NOT ONLY TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE,
BUT NOT TO DISCUSS IT UNTIL THE OPERATIVE DATE AND THE
OPERATIVE DATE WAS TO BE ABOUT A WEEK AND A HALF HENCE.

AND THAT, YOU KNOW, SIMPLY TO ALLOW THE FORMALITY TO
GO THROUGH --

SO, WHEN I SAW THE STORY WHICH SUGGESTED IT BEING
ANNOUNCED BY A BONN NONPARTICIPANT -- IT WAS A LOGICAL
THING -- WAS JUST THE WHOLE, WITHOUT THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT.

Q: CONCERNING THIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, DOES IT TOUCH
ON REPAYMENT TO MOBIL AND TEXACO, OR IS THERE SOME
SATISFACTION OVER THE ORIGINAL DISPUTE?

A: I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THOSE
DISCUSSIONS BEYOND THE QUESTION OF THE SUSPENDED RELATIONS
THEMSELVES.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US MORE THAN WHAT YOU SUGGEST -- WHAT "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" MEANS?

A: IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT WE RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ON BOTH SIDES -- PROBABLY YOU WOULD HAVE TO SEND A SECOND-LEVEL MAN OVER TO SEE ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF RE-OPENING THE MISSION.

AND THEN REOPENING THE MISSION, WE WOULD HAVE A CHIEF OF MISSION THERE WITH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY CUBANS THERE ARE IN THE COUNTRY?

A: I THINK IF THERE ARE ANY, WE PROVIDED FIGURES, AND YOU COULD FIND THEM BACK THERE ON THE FILE. I DON'T HAVE THEM IN FRONT OF ME -- IF THERE ARE ANY THERE.
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PAGE 04 STATE 131961

Q: WHO DID OBENGA MEET WITH?

A: HE MET WITH WILLIAM SCHAUFELLE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Q: IS THIS A PREVIEW TO A SIMILAR STEP WITH ANGOLA, WITH WHICH THERE ARE CERTAIN SIMILARITIES?

A: I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY CONNECTION WHATSOEVER AND I WOULDN'T SPECULATE ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE CONNECTION.

Q: WHO HAS BEEN REPRESENTING -- HAS SOMEBODY BEEN REPRESENTING U.S. INTERESTS THERE DURING --

A: FRG HAS, AND THAT'S THE REASON WE DID IT IN BONN.

Q: ON CUBA, AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS SAID TWICE NOW IN THE LAST TWO DAYS ON CAPITOL HILL THAT CASTRO WOULD LIKE TO GET HIS TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT CASTS ANY LIGHT ON THIS? DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY UPDATE ON THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING?

A: NO, THE LAST WORD WE HAD, THE LAST WORD I HAVE, WHICH IS STILL THE LEVEL OF SOME 50 TECHNICIANS --

Q: DO YOU MEAN TECHNICIANS OR MILITARY TECHNICIANS?

A: MILITARY TECHNICIANS, I BELIEVE, IS WHAT WE HAVE DESCRIBED THEM AS.

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PAGE 05 STATE 131961

Q: HODDING, HAS A DATE BEEN SET FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS

WITH THE RUSSIANS ON THE ZONE OF PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A: I THINK I MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION BECAUSE I THINK THAT WE MAY BE AT A POINT OF HAVING SOMETHING ON THAT. I DON'T HAVE IT IN FRONT OF ME SO I WILL GET IT RIGHT AWAY.

Q: YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT CASTRO WANTS TO GET HIS TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA. CAN YOU FIND OUT WHAT THE LATEST READING IS OF CASTRO'S INTENTIONS?

A: I DOUBT THAT YOU ARE GOING TO GET MUCH SATISFACTION ON THE QUESTION, BUT I WILL BE GLAD TO ASK.

Q: LAST WEEK, ABOUT THE 50 CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA, THE STATEMENT HERE WAS THAT IF THE NUMBER WERE TO INCREASE, THAT WOULD BE A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT. AND THE SAME DAY, WE GOT A BACKGROUND PAPER, OR AN INFORMATION PAPER, WHICH SAID THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 1,000 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN THE CONGO. IS THAT ALSO A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONGO?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO CHARACTERIZE THE PRESENCE OF THE CUBANS IN THE CONGO AT THIS TIME.

Q: BUT IF 50 OR MORE ARE SERIOUS IN ETHIOPIA, WHY AREN'T A THOUSAND IN ANOTHER COUNTRY?

A: I WOULD THINK THAT YOU VIEW THINGS SEQUENTIALLY, BY WHICH I MEAN THAT AN EXPANDING PRESENCE ON THE CONTINENT OF FOREIGN FORCES -- IN THIS CASE CUBAN -- IS SOMETHING WE WOULD VIEW AS A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT. I AM NOT SURE THAT I AM SUPPOSED TO STAND UP HERE EVERY DAY AND DISCUSS AS A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT SOMETHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST, AND VIEW WITH ALARM THE POSSIBILITY

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PAGE 06 STATE 131961

THAT IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, BECAUSE IT HAS.

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